

PATENT  
1291.1000

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of: )  
Georg Wanninger et al. )  
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International Application No. PCT/DE03/03759 )  
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International Filing Date: November 14, 2003 )  
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Priority Date: November 15, 2002 )  
 )  
FOR: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR EXCHANGING )  
TRANSPORT ELEMENTS )

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Commissioner for Patents  
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

This preliminary amendment to the above identified patent application is submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.115 to bring the accompanying English translation of the national stage patent application into conformance with common practice at the US Patent and Trademark Office.

Please amend the application as follows: